OCTAE Connection
March 27, 2020

Updated Information: Pathways to Credentials (Stackable Credentials) Technical Assistance Opportunity

Dear Colleagues,

Due to current events, we have changed the application due date for the Pathways to Credentials technical assistance project. Applications will now be due by **5 p.m. Central time on Thursday, April 16, 2020**.

For more information on the project and for access to the updated application, please visit our webpage at https://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/about-pathways-to-credentials. This exciting initiative, supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, aims to build the capacity of community colleges to improve career and technical education credential attainment rates among youth and adults enrolled in associate degree programs. The project offers colleges the opportunity to apply for free customized technical assistance on stackable credential program design, including such components as employer engagement, industry certification alignment, and non-credit/credit integration. A cohort of up to 10 community colleges will be selected. Teams from the selected colleges will participate in an in-person institute and work with a technical assistance coach and other subject matter experts over the course of a year to advance their work in embedding stackable industry-recognized credentials within associate degree programs. Participating colleges will develop action plans specific to the workforce needs of their communities while benefiting from the peer learning community of the cohort.

We hope that the extra two weeks gives flexibility to teams working remotely during campus closures. As of now, we have not decided on a date for the in-person Technical Assistance Institute currently scheduled for May 28–29, 2020, but we are closely monitoring travel guidance and are prepared to reevaluate as conditions warrant. We will keep you posted as decisions are made—both via email and by posting on our website https://cte.ed.gov. Further, if the in-person institute presents a challenge for a selected college, we will work with the selected colleges to best meet their needs, whether that means virtual delivery, moving the in-person event to later in the year, or some combination thereof.

For more information, please contact Erin Berg, community college program specialist, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at erin.berg@ed.gov, or the project director, Hope Cotner, President, CORD, at hcotner@cord.org

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